Financial help to Orissa for leprosy eradication

2655. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Orissa Government has committed to declare the State "a leprosy-free region";

(b) whether it is also a fact that the state Government has achieved magnificent success in containing this affliction since 1982-83; and

(c) the future action-plan of the Central Government to help this cash strapped State to save the leprosy patients from disfigurement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. Prevalence rate of leprosy in the State of Orissa has come down from 121.40 in 1982-83 to 1.60 per 10,000 population as on October, 2005.

(c) The Central Government is already providing financial assistance to various State Governments in the form of Cash Grants and Grants in aid to State Leprosy Societies for implementation of NLEP activities. Free MDT services are available on all working days upto PHC level for treatment of leprosy patients and reduce the risk of eventual disfigurement. Presently, Reconstructive Surgeries (RCS) are carried out on deformed leprosy patients at Hoina Leprosy Research Trust, LEPRA, Muniguda, Rayagada district in the State of Orissa.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations (ILEP) and Government of India (Gol) in 2005 to upgrade 5 Medical College in the country for providing Reconstructive Surgery (RCS) services for deformed leprosy patients out of which one Medical College *viz;* SCB Medical College, Cuttack is in the State of Orissa.

Inequalities in healthcare delivery system

2656. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are working on **a** plan to reduce vast inequalities in healthcare delivery system across different regions and socio-economic groups in India;